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CUNTRY Trioste/Bulgaria/Albania

SUBJECT Bulgarian and Soviet Shipping;

Effects of Korean War on Bulgarian Populace

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- The SS VAPTZAROV, Bulgarian registry, arrived in Trieste on 24 August 1950 from Durres with a cargo of 1,225 metric tons of iron pyrite. Initiating the voyage at the Black Sea port of Varna where machinery, livestock and lumber were loaded, the vessel sailed to Malta where these items were discharged and then proceeded to Durres, Albania, where it unloaded oil drilling equipment of Rumanian manufacture.
- 2. The full itinerary of this vessel illustrates the heavy traffic from Black Sea ports to the eastern Mediterranean. Soviet, Bulgarian and Rumanian ships ply between Black Sea ports, especially the Rumanian ports, and the Albanian port of Durres carrying heavy machinery including mining, oil drilling and railroad equipment, and taking back cargoes of Albanian raw materials. A similar movement of cargo to Albania is conducted in Soviet and Polish vessels from the Soviet-controlled Baltic ports.
- The British have begun a heavy traffic in merchandise with the Soviet, Bulgarian and Rumanian Black Sea ports. It is difficult to determine the extent of this movement or the type of goods carried; however, a large part of this trade emanates from Malta.
- The Bulgarian people not only have low morale because of their presarious standard of living but they fear with growing anxiety that the Korean conflict may spread to other areas including Bulgaria. Reports on the destruction wrought by American Air Force attacks in Korea have been circulating with the result that the Bulgarians fear the American air arm more than any single force. There is widespread feeling that the fate of the Koreans is possibly also reserved for other Satellites of the Soviet Union.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

Next Review Date: 2008

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